

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interlock for an appliance, comprising:

an emitter for emitting a signal;

a detector for detecting said emitted signal;

5 a reflector for relaying said emitted signal from said emitter to said detector; and

an actuator for selectively positioning said reflector in two or more positions.

2. The interlock of claim 1, wherein the interlock is
10 operatively connected with a food processing appliance having at least control/operating base, a working bowl that cooperates with said control/operating base, and a cover that cooperates with said working bowl.

3. The interlock of claim 2, wherein said emitter is
15 operatively connected with said control/operating base.

4. The interlock of claim 2, wherein said detector is operatively connected with said control/operating base.

5. The interlock of claim 2, wherein said reflector is operatively connected with said cover and/or said working bowl.

20 6. The interlock of claim 5, wherein said cover has an opening for introducing food items to be processed through said cover into said working bowl.

7. The interlock of claim 6, further comprising an accessory cooperative with said opening of said cover.

8. The interlock of claim 7, wherein said actuator is operatively connected with said accessory.

5 9. The interlock of claim 8, wherein at least one of said two or more positions is a reflecting position in which said reflector relays a signal from said emitter to said detector.

10 10. The interlock of claim 9, wherein at least another of said two or more positions is a non-reflecting position in which said reflector is unable to relay said emitted signal from said emitter to said detector.

11. The interlock of claim 10, wherein said reflector can relay said emitted signal from said emitter to said detector, which satisfies the interlock and allows a food processing
15 appliance to be operated when said reflector is in said reflecting position.

12. An appliance comprising:

a control and/or operating base;

20 a working bowl for cooperating with said control and/or operating base;

a cover for cooperating with said working bowl; and

an optical interlock cooperative with said control and/or operating base, said working bowl, and said cover.

13. The appliance of claim 12, wherein said control and/or operating base has one or more optical emitters for emitting an optical signal and one or more optical detectors for detecting said optical signal.

5 14. The appliance of claim 13, wherein said working bowl has two or more guides for channeling said optical signal.

15. The appliance of claim 14, wherein said cover has a reflector for relaying said optical signal from said emitter to said detector.

10 16. The appliance of claim 15, wherein said reflector has an angled reflective surface.

17. A food processor comprising:

a control/operating base;

15 a working bowl operatively connectable to said control/operating base;

a cover separably connectable to said working bowl; and

an optical interlock cooperative with said control/operating base, said working bowl, and said cover.

20 18. The appliance of claim 17, wherein said control and/or operating base has one or more optical emitters for emitting an optical signal and one or more optical detectors for detecting said optical signal, and wherein said working bowl has two or more guides for channeling said optical signal, and wherein said

cover has a reflector for relaying said optical signal from said emitter to said detector.

19. The appliance of claim 18, wherein said reflector has an angled reflective surface.

5 20. The food processor of claim 19, wherein said angled reflective surface has an about 90° bend.